**Minutes of the**

**Regular Council Meeting**

**Aliceville City Hall**

**February 26, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Gipson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Council members present: Donald Allen, Warren Lavender, Robert Wilder, and Thomas Wilkins and Terrence Windham.

**INVOCATION:**

Chief Tonnie Jones offered the invocation.

**MINUTES:**

Council member Wilder moved for the approval of the February 12, 2020 Regular Council Meeting minutes, seconded by Council member Allen. Motion carried unanimously with all present voting “yes”.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. **Park Concession-** Mayor Gipson reported one person has submitted their name to operate the Park Concession.
2. **Tax Increase Cigarettes ($.10 a pack)-** Council member Allen moved to consider a $.05 increase on tobacco taxes to be considered at the next council meeting, seconded by Council member Wilder. Motion carried with Council members Allen, Wilder, Wilkins, and Windham voting “yes” and Council member Lavender voting “no”. (1st Reading)
3. **Tax Increase Beer and Wine ($.10)-** Tabled.
4. **Tax Increase Motel (10%)-** Council member Wilkins moved to consider a lodging tax of 4% at the next council meeting, seconded by Council member Windham. Motion carried with Council members Allen, Wilder, Wilkins, and Windham voting “yes” and Council member Lavender voting “no”. (1st Reading)

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **AOC Regional Seminar (McCaa & S. Jones)-** Council member Wilkins moved for the approval of paying the expenses for City Clerk Dineki McCaa to attend the AOC Regional Seminar in Birmingham on April 2, 2020 and Magistrate Susan Jones attending on May 7, 2020 in Mobile, seconded by Council member Windham. Motion carried unanimously with all present voting “yes”.
2. **Tax Revenue Enhancement Agreement for Alcohol & Business License-** Council member Wilder moved for the approval of the Tax Revenue Enhancement Agreement for Alcohol & Business License with Avenu Insights, seconded by Council member Lavender. Motion carried with Mayor Gipson, Council members Allen, Lavender, and Wilder voting “yes” and Council members Wilkins and Windham voting “no”.
3. **Internship for High School Students-** Council member Windham moved for the approval to tabled the subject, seconded by Council member Lavender. Motion carried unanimously with all present voting “yes”.
4. **Sidewalk on the Baptist Line-** Council member Windham asked for Public Works Director Terry Hill to mark off area where the sidewalk is broken until repaired. Council member Windham stated it will take 2-3 bags of cement and 3 hours with 2-3 men working on the project. He offered to pay for the cement if the city could not afford to do so.
5. **Walking Trail Issues-** Council member Windham asked for the Christmas Tree to be removed. He stated “It is about to Spring”. Also, the sign at the walking trail needed to be secured. Mayor Gipson stated “It is too wet for the tree to be removed”.
6. **Overtime Reports-** Council member Windham asked for the Council to get a monthly report on overtime and which department it is granted. Mayor Gipson said she will get with the City Clerk about this, but there is no overtime at this time.

Chief Jones said that the city’s Police Department had a lot of overtime this year due to the large number of funerals they had to escort. There has been up to three to four funerals in one day.

1. **Cotton Mill Debris-** Council member Windham asked has progress been made on the demolish of the old burnt Cotton Mill due to being a safety hazard. Mayor Gipson said the city has received a few low bids for removing the scrap iron only, but not demolishing the building. He asked the governing body for permission to seek quotes to demolish the building. All of the governing body was in agreement of allowing him to seek bids to demolish the building.
2. **Baseball Country-**The Dixie Youth League wants to partner with Baseball Country from the Jena Community to do work on March 3, 2020 at the city’s Dixie Youth field for some clean-up, pressure washing, and repairs to the batting cage and outfield.
3. **Coca-Cola Agreement-** Mayor Gipson reported the Park and Recreation Board reported Meridian Coca-Cola is willing to install three scoreboards at the city park.

Council member Windham reported it will take approximately six weeks to finalize the contract and get everything in place. The contract will be for 10 years of Coke products sold at the park concession stand in exchange for three scoreboards costing $10,000. The scoreboards will have a 5-year warrant on them. The council will be presented with an agreement to sign at a future meeting.

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:**

Council member Lavender moved for the approval of the accounts payable, seconded by Council Member Wilkins. Motion carried unanimously with all present voting “yes”.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:**

Police Chief Tonnie Jones reported the Aliceville Police Department had 11 criminal cases this month. 9 of the cases went to District Court.

**STREET DEPARTMENT REPORT:**

Mr. Hill announced Aliceville Housing Authority donated a truck to the City of Aliceville to be use by the mechanic.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:**

No report.

**UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCE:**

John Russell reported the owners of the Old Churches Chicken agreed to replace the broken windows and doors on the building, but asked for an extension to do the work until April 11, 2020. Everyone agreed to allow the extension.

Mr. Russell recommended the governing body proceed with the demolition of the Old McPherson Funeral Home. After demolition, the owner will be given a date to pay the bill, if the bill goes unpaid the City of Aliceville will become the owner of the property.

Mr. Russell reported stucco has been falling from a building owned by David Northington on Broad Street. Mr. Northington said he will fix the problem. He asked for permission to tell Mr. Northington to knock the whole building down. The Council gave him permission to do so.

Lastly, Mr. Russell reported a lawsuit has been file against the City of Aliceville concerning a lady falling due to a broken culvert. He responded to the law firm stating the statute of limitation has expired on filing the paperwork on this case. Also, after reviewing the documentation, she initially stated she fell against a car. He suggested the paper work be sent to the City insurance company.

Sedelia Gaines expressed her dissatisfaction about her compliant previously brought before the Council concerning bright lights shining on her home located on Food Fare and the Housing Authority buildings. Mayor Gipson stated she will be talked to her concerning the matter.

Mayor Gipson announce her appointment as Vice President of the West Alabama Mayors Association.

Gary Ball asked the Council to donate 2 old city lawn mowers to Aliceville High School for the purpose of mowing the area across from the High School Football Stadium (Sue Stabler Park). Mayor Gipson said she will get with Mr. Hill concerning the matter.

Jean McBride expressed her concerns about the condition of the old Aliceville Prisoners of War Camp (Sue Stabler Stadium). Mrs. McBride said visitors to the city who have heard about this historical World War II monument like to see where the camp is, and when they go to the site, they see an overgrown area. Mayor Gipson stated she will get with the Museum Director about some ideas on a clean-up project.

April 1, 2020 is National Wide Census Day.

Primary Election is March 3, 2020.

**ADJOURN-** With no other business, Council member Lavender moved for the approval of adjourning the regular council meeting, seconded by Windham. Motion carried with all present voting “yes”.

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Marva Gipson, Mayor ATTEST:

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 Dineki McCaa, City Clerk.

Note: Mayor Gipson only vote when noted.